

NSC BRIEFING

9 May 1956

HUNGARY REDUCES BORDER RESTRICTIONS

1. The Hungarian government issued orders to its Interior Ministry on 9 May to remove "all technical barriers on the Western frontier" of the country. This action was preceded by Austrian Communist public proposals to Hungary that restrictions on the Austro-Hungarian border be lifted since they represented a remnant of the cold war.

2. The removal of the minefields and barbed wire fences from Hungary's 3-5 kilometer border zone will reduce the more overt signs of the iron curtain, but the government will continue to maintain strict border controls utilizing the services of its 15,000 border police force.

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